

THE PREFERENCE ANALYSIS OF RED DEER (CERVUS ELAPHUS) ON DIFFERENT COMPOSITION OF PASTURE

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Many kinds of animals were already studied on which composition of pasture do they reside most of their time, respectively which constituents of pasture they eat more pleassantly. In Hungary there have not been done any researches on the red deer grazing habitude in farming conditions yet. The target of this study was to examine which species of the plants are the most preferred by the red deer under the conditions of Bőszénfa's area.

The pasture planting was in 2005. At the choice of the species' planting the climate conditions and relief of this area were taken into consideration. Seven kinds of pastures or pasture mixtures were planted in two repetitions. Because of the unfavourable weather conditions the planted pasture evolution was slower than expected, in this manner the preferences examination was put off to 2007.

The preference study of plots planted with different pasture constituents was carried out by grazing of 48 hinds. During the grazing season the time of residence of the grazing hinds on every single plot was measured 14 times by five hours' observations. The observations could be carried out from April to the end of June because of the pasture plots were totally burnt out from the want of the moisture. Our measurements were completed with field reviews. During the reviews the most chewed species of plants were noted.

The statistical analysis of the observed period was carried out in monthly dividing too. In April the gramineaes and the white clover (*Trifolium repens* L) were grazed in the same proportion ($P < 0,001$) by the hinds, but they did not prefere the giant agrostis (*Agrostis gigantea* Roth) and the bunias orientalis (*Bunias orientalis*). In May the deers grazed the white clover the most intensively, and the gramineas on the right hand side, the giant agrostis and the bunias orientalis were eaten the least. In June the hinds spent the most time by grazing on the white clover, the graminneaes were mediumly grazed, the giant agrostis and the bunias orientalis were grazed almost not at all.

Summarized the red deers spent the most of their grazing time on the white clover, while they grazed on the giant agrostis and on the bunias orientalis for the least time.